

History of the United States Army Inspector General System





IG
History

Russia: Early 19th Century



U.S. Army Inspector



Enabling Learning Objectives



IG History

- **Describe the origins of the IG system.**
- **Describe the von Steuben model and why IGs adhere to that model today.**
- **Identify the four historical constants of how commanders have used Army IGs since the 18th Century and the beginning of the Army IG system.**
- **Describe the meaning of the IG crest.**



IG
History

Why Inspectors General

- **Armies were becoming larger and more complex**
- **Standardization and discipline was**
- **Soldiers and Armies were changing**



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Origins of the IG System

IG History

- **French - 1668**
 - Worked for the King
 - Full authority to punish
 - Geographic focus
- **Prussian - 1750**
 - King's "eyes and ears"
 - Drill and discipline
 - Improve unit efficiency
- **British - 1760**
 - Functional areas
 - An additional duty
 - Enforce accountability
 - CSS functions

The American Inspector General





IG
History

First American ***“Inspector”***

"An army marches on its stomach..."
Napoleon Bonaparte

- **April 1777 -- Commissary Inspector**



American Agents in France

IG
History

- **Ben Franklin, Arthur Lee and Silas Deane**
- **Mission:**
 - ✓ **Recruit experienced military leadership**
 - ✓ **Get French into the war**
 - ✓ **Secure financing**



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IG
History

Early American IGs

Augustin Montin de la Balme

- **Recruited by Ben Franklin**
- **Cavalryman**
- **May 1777 - Lieutenant Colonel of Horse**
- **July 1777 - Inspector General of Cavalry**
- **Resigned in protest October 1777**
- **Killed in action 1780**

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Early American IGs

IG History

- Phillipe Charles Jean Baptiste Tronson du Coudray
- **Recruited by Silas Deane**
 - Major General, Artillery Chief
- **IG of Ordnance and Military Manufactories**
- **Pompous troublemaker**
- **16 September 1777**
-- Historic ride





IG
History

Council of 14 Generals

29 October 1777

- Convened by Washington
- Proposed duties of Inspector General:

- ✓ Serve as drillmaster general
- ✓ Establish uniform tactics
- ✓ Publish manual on drill
- ✓ Organize and lead training
- ✓ Ensure troop proficiency



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IG
History

Congressional Resolution 13 December 1777

- **Two Inspectors General authorized**
- **IG would report findings directly to Congress (Board of War [BoW])**
- **BoW regulated and made all tactical and strategic decisions for the Army**
- **Commander was responsible for tactical operations**

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IG

History

Congressional Resolution 13 December 1777

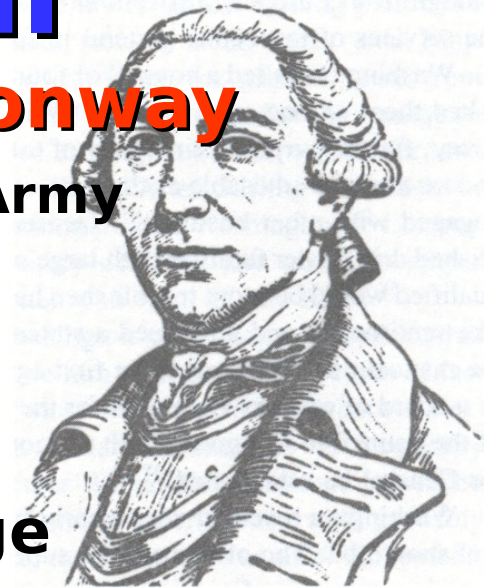
- **IG procedures and responsibilities:**
 - ✓ Notify regimental commanders of their reviews
 - ✓ Have commanders prepare return lists in triplicate
 - (Equivalent of today's Unit Status Report)
 - ✓ Talk to and observe unit personnel and equipment
 - ✓ Produce regulations for maneuvering the troops
- **First IG was Brigadier General Thomas Conway**



First United States **Army Inspector** **General**

IG
History

- **Brigadier General Thomas Conway**
 - Irish born, 20+ years in the French Army
 - Recruited by Silas Deane
 - Member of Council of 14 Generals
 - Self-serving, pompous braggart
- Promoted and sent to Valley Forge
- Washington dismissed him as he had no manual for instructing soldiers as directed by Congress for the IG to use
- **Bottom Line:** Army wasn't big enough for Washington and Conway together!





IG
History



Washington's IG Concept

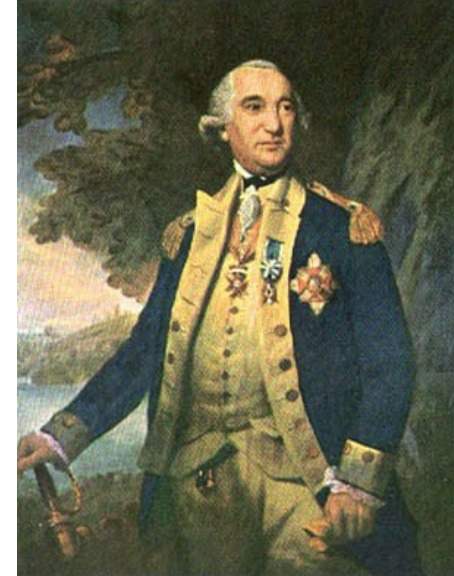
- **Appealed to Congress**
- **Detailed his IG concept**
- **Commander-in-Chief:**
 - ✓ Accountable to civil authority (Congress)
 - ✓ Selects his own IG
- **IG answers to the Commander -- not to Congress**



Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus Heinrich von Steuben

**IG
History**

- **Recruited by Ben Franklin**
 - **Entered Prussian Army in 1747**
 - **Captain**
 - **Served on Frederick the Great's staff**
 - **Retired after 28 years of service**
 - **Bankrupt and jobless - a failure in civilian life**
- **Franklin "embellished" records (Captain to General)**
- **Credentials given to Congress in December 1777**
- **Ordered to Valley Forge and arrived in February 1778**



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IG
History

Situation at Valley Forge

“The situation of the camp is such that in all human probability the Army must soon dissolve.”



There is no meat, the horses are dying, and the bare country surrounding is a poor location for a camp.”

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Situation at Valley Forge

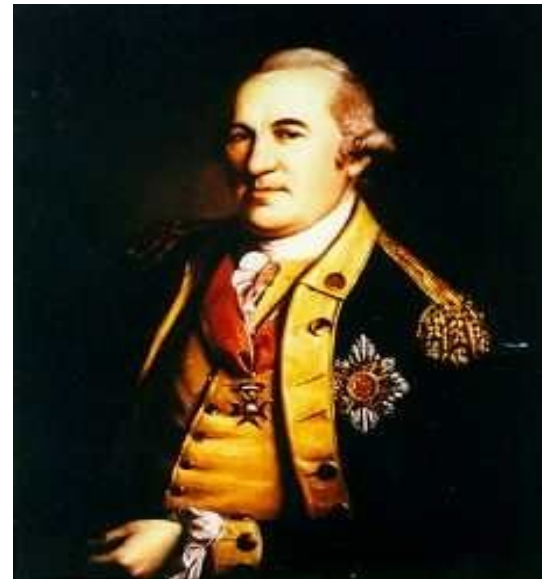
IG

History

“Nothing was so difficult and often impossible as to get a correct list of the states or return of any company, regiment or corps.”

“In our European armies a man who has been drilled for three months is called a recruit; here, in two months, I must have a soldier!”

-- *Baron von Steuben*



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Drillmaster General von Steuben

IG

History

- In March 1778, he trained one squad of Washington's guard

- Sub-inspectors trained squads; von Steuben supervised the trainers

- Daily company drill and weekly inspections



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IG
History

Inspector General von Steuben

- **Appointed IG in March 1778 by Washington**
- **Confirmed by Congress appointment in May 1778 and:**
 - **Promoted von Steuben to Major General**
 - **Established IG positions to brigade level**
 - **Authorized commander to appoint IGs**
 - **Authorized additional pay for IGs!**



IG
History

Major General Von Steuben:



The first Effective U.S. Army IG

- Standard regulations and tactics
- Codified in the “**Blue Book**”
- *Acted under Commander's intent*
- *Respected by subordinate commanders*
- *Won Commander's support and confidence*

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Pop Quiz



**Who is the only Army
IG to appear on U.S.
currency?**



1790 ~ Civil War

IG History

- 1790s: TIG was second in command
- After 1800
 - **IG duties assigned to Adjutant General**
 - **Position of IG was eliminated in 1812**
- 1813: Army staff reorganized
 - **Inspector General's Department established**
 - **TIG, eight inspectors general, and many assistant inspectors general**
 - **No centrally developed doctrine that clearly defined the role of the IG**

Pop Quiz



**Which TIG has a mountain
named after him?**



Post Civil War ~ 1900

IG
History

- **War Department defined IG duties**
- **1876: Secretary of War directed:**
 - **The Inspector General of the Army to report to the General of the Army on all subjects pertaining to military control and discipline**
 - **Field IGs to report directly to the unit Commanding General**
- **Bottom line: An IG was no longer a "spy" from a higher headquarters**
- **This relationship continues today**

Pop Quiz



**Which TIGs served the
shortest and the longest
time?**



1900 ~ 1939

IG
History

- **Inspected regiments deploying to the Philippine Insurrection - poor results**
- **Established a systematic inspectorate in the Philippine Islands**
- **Root Reforms - Field IG ideas sought and acted upon; focus was on training**
- **Field inspections of units (vice garrison)**

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Pop Quiz



**Which TIG has a post
named for him?**



1940 ~ 1949

IG

History

- **1940** - Commanding Generals down to division level allocated an IG under their direct control
- **During WWII - IG mission grew in importance and scope** (mobilization, inspections, investigations)
- **By 1945** - about 3,000 IGs around the world
- **Postwar - Assistance function** emerges:
 - In one year the Army demobilized from nine million to a few hundred thousand!
 - Soldiers complained they weren't being discharged quickly enough.



IG
History

1950

• **Army Reorganization Act**

- **Inspector General's Department renamed Office of the Inspector General of the Army (OTIG)**
- **TIG was now:**
 - ✓ **Responsible** to Chief of Staff, Army
 - ✓ **Responsive** to Secretary of the Army
 - ✓ **Inquire into and report upon the discipline, efficiency, and economy of the Army**
 - ✓ **Focus on training and combat readiness**



The Early 1950s

IG
History

- **1952: IG training begins**
 - Previously, the IG's Department distributed instructional material to each IG in the form of inspection and investigation guides, handbooks, and procedural material
- **1953: Legal case resulted in the classification of IG data as having restricted access and use**



The Late 1950s

IG History

- **1956: SecArmy placed technical proficiency inspections of Army atomic organizations under IG jurisdiction**
- **1957: IG qualifications formally codified:**
 - **Highest caliber of Army officers with special qualifications:**
 - ✓ **Mature with broad military experience**
 - ✓ **Had not previously completed a normal three-year tour as an IG and had the moral and personal traits necessary for a position of dignity and prestige**



IG
History

The 1960s

- **1960: First standardized Inspector General Action Process (IGAP) Published in IG Technical Bulletin #4**
- **1961: IG course of instruction presented to groups composed entirely of foreign officers (Republic of Korea Army officers in Seoul, Korea, and Nationalist Chinese Army Officers in Taipei, Formosa)**

Pop Quiz



**Who was the first
African- American TIG?**



IG
History

1970 ~ Today

- Focus shifted from compliance to systemic inspection methodology
- IG system became automated
- **1986**: Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act reversed the IG section of the 1950 Army Reorganization Act and changed IG reporting
- TIG became:
 - **Responsible** to the Secretary of the Army
 - **Responsive** to the Chief of Staff, Army

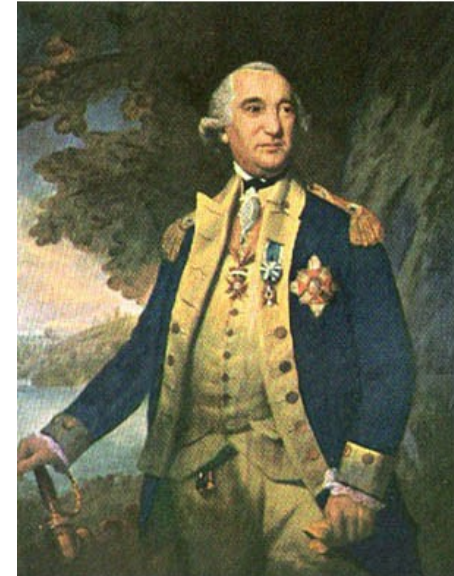


IG
History

The von Steuben Model



**From the beginning,
Inspectors General have
been responsible for
assisting commanders
with improving readiness
and warfighting capability.**



Teach and Train

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Historical Constants

IG
History

- **Inspectors General:**

- **Assist commanders in checking and instilling discipline, ethics, and standards**
- **Provide quick response for the commander's special interests**
- **Represent readily available assets for the commander for critical but unanticipated missions**
- **Often a substitute for a lack of experience**



IG
History



Military power and justice

Sword

Civil authority

Fasces

Right



Forward

and

Wreath

Academic and intellectual
achievement

"First be correct – then take action"

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History of the United States Army Inspector General System

